



*Sons of the American Legion
Ames Squadron #37*



2021 Merit Award for Continuing Education

The Sons of the American Legion, Squadron #37, of Ames Iowa will award \$1000.00 Merit Award to the individual that meets the outlined qualifications, and submits the best essay response. The submission may be mailed or delivered, to:

The Sons of the American Legion, Squadron #37,
Attn: Squadron Commander Bob Bellinghausen
225 Main St,
Ames, IA 50010

The Sons of the American Legion will not be responsible for, or consider, any submissions not delivered by **March 15, 2021, 7:00 pm.**

This merit award for continuing education was established to assist students in continuing his/her education at a state accredited college, university, professional, nursing, or vocational school, of the student's choice, in the United States of America. The merit award payment will be made directly to the school, after proof of enrollment is provided to the Sons of the American Legion.

A complete submission will include; this application, documentation to verify eligibility (Qualifications 1, and 2,), a transcript of high school grades verifying a minimum 2.5 GPA, and, the essay (**submitted on separate paper**).

Applicant Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Qualification 1: I am eligible for this scholarship, **(Must indicate one.)**

- As a descendant of an honorably discharged American Veteran, who served anytime from after April 6, 1917 to present, **OR,**
- As a descendant of a currently serving member of the U.S. Armed Forces, **OR,**
- I am a current Ames Legion Family (American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion, American Legion Riders) member, **OR,**
- As a descendant of a current, or deceased, member of the Ames Legion Family.

Qualification 2: I am a senior, **(Must indicate one.)**

- At Ames High School, **OR,**
- At Gilbert High School, **OR,**
- I am home schooled, and reside within the Ames or Gilbert school districts, **OR,**
- I do not attend or live within the Ames or Gilbert school districts, but qualify as a current member, or descendant of a current, or deceased, member of the Ames Legion Family.

Essay Requirements:

Below are listed 3 current topics related to the US Constitution, Americanism, and Patriotism. The essay must include two of the three topics, your choice. Begin each part of the essay with a position statement. In other words, how do YOU feel about the topic. Then defend, or justify your position.

Keep in mind, the Legion Family is apolitical. We have democrats, republicans, conservatives, and liberals in our family. We want to read your opinions and thoughts, not what you think we want to hear. There is no minimum, or maximum length for the essay. Essays will be judged on how well you state your position, and how well you defend, or justify, your position. Not the position itself.

Your essay should be typed, using a minimum of 14 point font, and double-spaced. Do not put your name or any other type of identifier on your essay. To avoid any type of bias, when your submission is received, the submission envelop and your essay will be marked with a matching number by the Merit Award Administrator. Only the Merit Award Administrator will know who submitted each essay, until the judging committee has made their decision.

The three topics are:

Gun Control – How do we balance citizen's rights while protecting the citizens?

Term Limits – Under the Constitution, the President is only allowed to serve two terms, a maximum of ten years. Should the Constitution be amended to include other Congressional elected offices?

The National Anthem – Should political statements or demonstrations be allowed during the playing of the national anthem?

Submission Checklist:

- ✓ This completed application.
- ✓ Eligibility Verification – Please submit a copy of;
 1. A. the DD-214
B. current Enlistment Orders
C. current membership card
D. current membership card, or last year of membership, if deceased.
 2. High school transcripts, which verify a minimum 2.5 GPA.
- ✓ Your essay which includes a position statement and justification for your position, for any two of the three topics listed above. Your essay should be on separate paper with no type of identification on the essay.
- ✓ Place all of the above items in a manilla envelope, with your name and address clearly printed on the envelop, and deliver it to the above address **before March 15, 2021 at 7:00 pm.**

Thank you for applying for The Sons of the American Legion Merit Award For Continuing Education. We wish you the best of luck in the scholarship selection process, and in all your future endeavors.

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Ames Squadron 37